

XII.—Correspondence.

A SPIDER'S WEB WEIGHTED BY A STONE.

SANDAKAN,

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO,

November 28th, 1911.

To

The Editor,

"Sarawak Museum Journal."

SIR,

The following may be of interest to your readers. Several months ago when I was at Kudat I noticed a spider's web, built from a horizontal beam (not in an angle of a horizontal and an upright), which was weighted with a small piece of stone—evidently designed to keep the whole web taut and in position. The stone was about 4 feet 6 inches or 4 feet 9 inches from the ground and was supported only by two filaments of web (joined about 2 inches above the stone) with a small extra support on one side where the stone had a slight excrescence. The web itself was about 18 inches long and 12 inches broad, and the pendent strand holding the stone must have been nearly a yard. There were several spiders on the beam above, but I fancy the one which had built this web was about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and of a buff colour, barred with chocolate. All these observations must be taken as tentative as I had made preparations for photographing the web and weighing the stone and measuring the whole thing, when a heavy squall destroyed it all, much to my chagrin. It would be very interesting to learn if any of the residents in Sarawak have noticed a similar case. I heard that isolated cases have been noted in Europe, but am anxious to prove that this is a custom of one particular Bornean species.

Believe me, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. J. M. SAWREY-COOKSON.